

you bring it to my notice, I will take it up with the State Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. Sir, it was dealt by you and myself also. I would like to know the statistics regarding budget allocation made for it last year to the Labour Ministry and how much was spent out of that allocation. I would like to get figures regarding allocation of funds and the funds utilised on the programme. Mr. Speaker, Sir, our efforts were nullified. I would like to know the figures regarding budget allocation for the programme and its implementation by the State Government. They keep on saying that the slogan for child Labour abolition is being implemented but no attention is being paid towards it.

[*English*]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, in the Budget for the year 1995-96, an amount of about Rs.34.40 crore has been earmarked. We have almost spent all the money. In 1996-97, Rs.56 crore has been earmarked in the Budget. I do not have the figure of the expenditure as to how much we have spent.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: That is important. What is the expenditure? You please tell me.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I will collect it and give it to you.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: You must give your reply to the question properly.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: All right. Apart from that, this particular supplementary is not related to this question. The hon. Member should understand that.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Minister is right because the question specifically relates to child labour in the domestic service, at home. The Minister is not supposed to have all the figures about the entire child labour problem. It is confined to domestic servants.

[*Translation*]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Do we not have any right to speak on this issue. I would like to know the budget allocation spent on it.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have the figure?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I do not have it, I will give it to him.

Foreign Investment In Television Network

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*183. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise/commercialise one of the channels of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any code of conduct has been formulated in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also decided to allow foreign firms to buy DD-3;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) its impact on other channels of Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government is exploring the feasibility of obtaining external assistance to meet the cost of the projected expansion of the terrestrial network of Doordarshan's DD-3 channel in order to enable a larger segment of Indian viewers gain access to it. The specific modalities in this regard have not yet been decided.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) As in (a) & (b) above.

(g) Since DD-3 expected to meet the requirement of niche audience/viewers, it may not have effect on other channels.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I have put a specific question to the hon. Minister as to whether the Government intends to privatise the DD-3. He has given an answer saying that the Government is exploring the possibility of obtaining external assistance. But elsewhere he has been reported to have said that the Government intends to privatise the DD-3. It has been reported in the Press. External assistance is no privatisation. Therefore, I would like to ask a specific question and I want a specific answer as to whether the Government intends privatising the DD-3 channel. If the answer is 'yes', I would like to know the rationale of doing that, in view of the fact that a comprehensive Broadcasting Bill is pending which the Government has been promising again and again. Does it mean that the Government does not intend to bring that Broadcasting Bill and further I would like to know, in case of privatisation how will the Government keep a tag on the quality of the programme?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: I think the whole confusion is about the reply; assistance or participation or the private individuals. Even in today's briefing meeting I observed this. In my Press statement outside I had said that DD-1 and DD-2 were Government channels. To expand DD-3 I need,

if I want to go in a big way, a minimum of Rs.1000 to 1500 crore.

Secondly, I am not getting a single paisa of revenue from DD-3. I can have DD-1 and DD-2 for information and education and some part of entertainment and DD-3 and DD-4 I can have fully for entertainment and for covering Indian culture under the control of Doordarshan. I do not want to completely privatise them one hundred per cent. But as far as the finances are concerned, a Committee has been constituted in Doordarshan to suggest what should be the modalities.

Fourthly, as far as the Prasar Bharati Bill is concerned, we are committed to it, we want that the Bill should come and we will place in Parliament. Two rounds of discussions have already been over and the draft is before the Cabinet. Once it is passed, I will have a discussion with the leaders of all political parties. That apart, I have been telling from the beginning that it should not be on the basis of majority or minority; it should be passed on a *Sarvasammati* basis. I will incorporate the opinions of all of you.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. He should answer my specific question whether the Government intends to privatise DD-3 or not. He spoke about getting financial assistance. I understand it. I appreciate that. But does he intend to privatise DD-3? That is the basic policy question.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Sir, there are two types of privatisation - one is complete selling and the other is just taking as a partner whenever required and when the time is over, we can leave it. It is just like a joint venture.

[Translation]

They are called whenever their services are required

[English]

not giving permanently.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Have you decided on joint venture or not? Please tell us.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Yes. That is under process. Whether we should go for a joint venture or whether we should wait for a loan or whether we should share a time with them or whether we can give them time for ten, twelve or fourteen hours is still under process. Once the process is over, again I will come before the Parliament. So, before taking this decision, I will announce it publicly.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: It has been accepted by all that most of the programmes being telecast by private T.V. channels and some of the programmes of the Doordarshan also are more Westernised, alien to our culture and are capable of misleading our youth. This has been brought to your notice earlier also. I would like to know as to what action you are going to take in this regard.

Secondly, DD-3 is limited to certain cities only. Why are you limiting it to certain cities? Why do you not broad-

base it so that rural areas and other cities can also get it?

Thirdly....

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, please. No thirdly, fourthly, fifthly. Nothing doing. I have allowed one additional question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I want to raise a very important point.

MR. SPEAKER: As a former Minister, you should know the rules.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I plead with you.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, it is about DD-3. Third question may be allowed.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, of late, there is a tendency to reduce the regional language content of the Doordarshan programmes. Is it so? Will you assure this House that the regional language content of the programmes will not be touched, and if possible, be increased? It is only one question.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: The reply to your second question is there in your first question. The answer to your first question is: 'Yes'. I have made up my mind. Some of the programmes are not only Westernised but they are also destroying our culture. As on today, I have no powers to control them. That is why, in the Broadcasting Bill, we are bringing them under the purview of licensing. Once they are brought under the purview of licensing, then I can have all these conditions.

Secondly, you wanted that DD-3 be taken to the rural areas. For a transponder I require a transmitter. I require Rs. 1 Crore for a transmitter of one kilo-watt capacity. If I want to put a transmitter of ten kilo-watt capacity, then I will be requiring Rs.10 crore. So, if I want to cover even half of the population, I require about Rs.300 to Rs.400 crore. At present Doordarshan is taking steps keeping into account the needs of DD-1 and DD-2, and to improve the DD-3 and DD-4, and to give more programmes. Once I have DD-3 and DD-4, I will get the revenue and then I can effectively utilise DD-1 and DD-2 for regional programmes also. At present from 4.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. I am giving them for the regional kendras. That can be extended a little bit, provided I have more channels and more viewers. So, keeping that in view, we wanted some collaborators or some persons who can invest the amount for DD-3 and DD-4. For that purpose, we have done this.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: What about the regional language?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: I told about it.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that hon. Minister has just now given assurance

about a regional language. On the one hand privatisation of Doordarshan is being done and on the other hand regional languages are being suppressed. Earlier the sponsored Marathi Programme was telecast from 10 to 10.30 but now it has been changed and now it will be telecast from 1 to 2 on Saturday and Sunday. This has adversely affected the Marathi Producers. About 2000 persons have given application to Doordarshan with a fee of Rs.1000/- each but only 100 persons have been given chance and 7 or 8 out of them have stopped their work. I would like to know whether the regional languages will be given chance in the proposed third channel of Doordarshan or not?

[English]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Sir, once the channel comes, while making a policy we can definitely consider having it. I want that these regional aspirations should be met. By just telling in one language or two languages about the views or news or education, I cannot carry the message to the entire nation. Wherever the regional languages are there, we have to popularise them more. In that way we can effectively convey what we want to convey. That is why once the DD-3 and DD-4 come into existences, we can definitely consider giving more time for the regional Kendras and DD-1, DD-2, DD-3, DD-4, etc.

[Translation]

Prime is the mostly sought for commercials.

[English]

There are many people who want to produce. Hundreds and thousands of producers are there.

[Translation]

Prime time is quite less than its demand therefore, we are trying to introduce more channels. I also feel that pressure for prime time will decline after introducing DD-3 and DD-4.

[English]

SHRI C. NARASIMHAN: Sir, through you, I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. The former Prime Minister assured of Channel-5 for Tamil Nadu. I request the hon. Minister, through you, to tell as to when it will be implemented.

MR. SPEAKER: That is only a suggestion. Mr. Minister, are you going to implement it?

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said in the reply that the third channel is being introduced for a special section of society so I would like to know special which is this section?

I would also like to know as to whether more channels would be introduced if other special sections will make such demands and what would be the percentage of external

investment for extension of this channel.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, by special Section, I meant the viewers of four metropolitan cities i.e. Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi and their adjoining areas. People of this area will be facilitated if transmitter is installed for these areas. So far the issue of external investment is concerned, I would like to say that it is still under consideration and no final decision has been taken on it.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while asking supplementaries to the last question Shri G. Venkat Swamy alleged that the movement for abolition of child labour became ineffective since he and your goodself left the charge of labour Ministry. While joining him I would also like to say that the concept of DD-3 has totally changed since yourself and I left the charge of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. DD-3 was proposed to be introduced as cultural channel to play a special role of countering propaganda launched against India. But now he is giving an ambiguous reply. It seems that decision regarding its privatisation has already been taken. Sir, through you I would like to ask whether the proposal objectives of DD-3 will be restored by the Government.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: International channel is already there for this purpose. How we can telecast or express our views to foreign countries from metropolitan cities like Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi. I am not taking the concept of one Channel but how the time slot can be distributed among DD-1, DD-2, DD-3, DD-4 and DD-5. We have started international channel but it lacks viewers and annually a loss of several crores of rupees is being incurred on it. The department is conducting an inquiry whether it is fulfilling the objective for which it was opened or not. We have to pay crores of rupees for it. Zee-TV and Star TV are there in Asian Pacific region and if we get place in that transponder then our channel will also be available on Zee-TV.

We are trying to get place in Inset Transponders of Asia Pacific region for telecasting DD-International through it even if external investment is received for DD-3 and DD-4.

[English]

Losses in BSP

*184. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft of various products of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) detected during each of the last three years;

(b) the total loss suffered by the BSP during the above period;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;